
The Pointe-Claire Record

An Initiative of the Pointe-Claire Citizens' Association - www.pointeclaire.info

A Look Behind the Curtain

Greetings, readers!

While the *Pointe-Claire Record* is now nicely into its second year, I have just celebrated my 1st anniversary of volunteering for the newspaper. I worked on my high school paper, the *Wagar Lion*, back in the early 1990s, and boy, did the memories come flooding back with PCR.

The people who work here at the *Pointe-Claire Record* are pouring all of their efforts, passion, and dedication and doing their best to get you news and updates from the community, as well as entertain you with pieces that are funny or informative, recipes, and upcoming events.

We have been fortunate to receive contributions from our readers, who come from vastly different backgrounds and who have so many interesting and valuable insights.

So, as a volunteer who has seen exactly what has gone into the publishing of an issue of the paper, I'd like to, as we do every month, extend the invitation to all our readers to get involved, but with a bit more detail.

The first question we get asked the most is, "When is the next issue coming out?" Our new objective will be to publish early in the month. If you'd like to submit something, the last week of the month or earlier is the best time to send something in.

The next question is usually, "How long can it be?" The answer there is "it depends." A full page of PCR with a photo is around 600 words, depending on how fancy your vocabulary is—don't worry too much, but you can imagine that layout becomes more difficult when you just need to squeeze in 100 more words. You can write more or you can write less, this is just a guideline.

We welcome articles, opinion pieces, and letters to the editor of varying lengths. If you want to share, we'll do our best to make it fit, just keep it reasonable.



Photo: Pixabay

And speaking of reasonable, it's time to talk about content. It is an election year, and we would love to be a resource for the people who are running for office and for the voters who will choose them. This means publishing ideas and opinions that may push the envelope and may ignite a passionate community response.

Bring it on.

But we do try to follow the rules. If you submit facts, figures, a photograph, or quote someone, you will need to provide the source. If you are saying something is purely your opinion, that's fine too, but we will not publish anything hateful or defamatory, nor will we engage in an extended back and forth. We want the *Pointe-Claire Record* to be a place where people can share their points of view and start a dialogue. We will work with you, not against you.

The *Pointe-Claire Record* thanks everyone for their support and contributions. Writing, proofreading, editing, or technical support—we are always ready to welcome new volunteers.

Deborah Ancel, volunteer.

PC Record Contacts

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Get involved, submit an article or feedback on past articles. Nous encourageons la contribution des articles en français également ! editor@pcrecord.ca

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Council Meeting Leaves Heads Spinning

By Ian Down, Journalist



Photo: Deborah Ancel

A new agreement promises to restore Pointe-Claire’s iconic windmill after decades of inaction, but that didn’t stop council from erupting into an argument about the process on Tuesday.

Late last month, the Archdiocese of Montreal announced the Société pour la Sauvegarde du Patrimoine de Pointe-Claire (SSPPC) had signed a 50-year lease agreement for the windmill with the Archdiocese, which owns the windmill and surrounding land. As part of this agreement, the SSPPC will repair and restore the windmill, with the first phase of work beginning sometime this year, according to a press release from the archdiocese.

The restoration will be funded by private donors, most of whose names have not been released, with the exception of former Giant, Inc. President Claude Lesage.

As for the city’s role, spokesperson Chloé Paiement said it’s up to the building’s owner to restore and maintain it, and up to the provincial government to make sure that happens. “The city’s responsibility remains unchanged following the agreement,” she wrote.

The windmill, which was built in 1709 and has since become a symbol of Pointe-Claire, has long been in disrepair, and discussions about repairing it have been ongoing for decades, without progress.

Despite the long-awaited progress on the project, Mayor Tim Thomas struck a mixed tone on Tuesday.

“I only wish the city could help fund this project,” he said. “Unfortunately, council rejected the subsidy agreement that I negotiated with the archdiocese to do this in 2022.”

He then told a resident during question period that the restoration should not be left up to “rich private donors.”

“To plan for how they’re gonna renovate it and what kind of windmill we’re going to get, they can only do that if they have the money upfront.”

Following these comments, tensions boiled over between Thomas and Councillor Eric Stork. Stork accused Thomas of misrepresenting a tentative agreement between the city and the archdiocese that was presented to council in September 2022 but never signed.

“Once again, you’re blatantly misrepresenting the truth,” Stork said. “You’re blatantly lying.”

Thomas and Stork’s disagreement came down to two main issues: that of public access, and the nature of the payment agreement between the archdiocese and the SSPPC. Thomas argued that the 2022 deal, which he helped negotiate and supported, promised better rights of access for visitors.

He later said the issue of public access was “a snare and a delusion: It’s a small little place where you don’t want people going in, especially with a working mechanism. So it’s a mythology; it’s a way of distracting.”

The Pointe-Claire Record asked Mayor Thomas, via Paiement, for his response to Stork’s accusations, but did not receive a response by publication time.

Thomas and Stork then sparred over payment for the project. Thomas argued more money should be provided by the city upfront than the roughly \$967,000 that was approved in a January 2024 by-law. But Stork said the archdiocese would be paid for the work regardless, per the by-law.

“We don’t have the option of not giving them money,” he said.

As for the funds set aside in the 2024 by-law, Paiement said that the funding stream “is available to any organization that meets the criteria of the program offered by the City of Pointe-Claire.”

The SSPPC did not respond to a request for comment.

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Editorial: We Sell Sanctuary

At last, it's March, and spring is just around the corner. Soon the trees will be budding, flowers will bloom, and dog poo will thaw—it's a magical time of year.

In our last [Polling Station](#), we asked you if you voted in municipal elections and the result was an overwhelming "Yes." Great news, but sadly this can't be accurate. With voter participation hovering around 40%, it equates to 60% of people not giving a doggy bag of "you know what" about how their city is run.

And speaking of dogs, in 2021 an informal poll showed that residents had more passion about dog parks than about the environment. We all love our animals, and they do so much for us, but what else do citizens care about? Going into our 2025 election, what will be the top issues? Dog parks? Saving Fairview Forest? What about building social housing? At the *Pointe-Claire Record*, we are strong proponents of advancing social issues and believe strongly in integrating social housing into our community and not creating ghettoized neighbourhoods, but we know not everyone feels the same.

Many people complain about "overdevelopment" and "overpriced" condos, and many of these people instead argue that we need social housing, but where should it go? How will we get it off the ground? Who pays for it? Some say it's complicated, but is it really?

West Islanders have demonstrated a great willingness to help, yet, in March 2023, when [Ricochet](#) (Hébergement/Homes), backed by the Table de Quartier Sud de l'Ouest-de-l'Île ([TQSOI](#)), proposed a social housing project where residents would pay rent equal to 25% of their salary in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, resident concerns blocked the project. In May 2024, when Ricochet was forced out by a government Health and Social Services Centre for their own programs, there was no big mobilization to accommodate a homeless shelter in any other community.



A makeshift shelter in Pointe-Claire's industrial sector. Photo: Barry Christensen

Let's stop using social issue buzzwords to oppose things and let's use them to do things. A drop-in centre is needed near Highway 40 and Saint-Jean Blvd., which is a transit hub for both the STM buses and the future REM station. If we are to try to make an impact in dealing with social issues, we need a place easily accessible for people to request assistance, whether it's youth riding the train into Pointe-Claire or someone that doesn't want to live in the woods behind Home Depot anymore.

We have great resources in our community from [West-Island Mission](#), Ricochet, [Corbeille du Pain](#), TQSOI, and so many more, but everyone is too spread out. A building on the vacant land next to the Olive-Urquhart Sports Centre would be ideal to house a drop-in centre, a sanctuary, if you will, for anyone in need. Let's make "Le Sanctuaire" a top campaign issue because we all care, and making resources easily accessible is just one step towards ending the cycle of poverty.

You've read this far and are wondering where this idea of "Le Sanctuaire" came from. It is an idea that was started by [Stepping Up/Un Pas Vers l'Avant](#), a local organization that helps the disadvantaged. To end poverty, we need to unify resources and make them easily accessible. Centralizing resources in the West Island makes sense on so many levels, from funding to accessibility.

The question now is, can we rally around an electoral cause that helps the community instead of one that divides us?

Why Is There So Much Poverty and Visible Homelessness on the Island of Montreal?

By Sam Watts



Photo: Brett Sayles on Pexels

OK, the southwestern part of the West Island is somewhat sheltered from this phenomenon; poverty in Pointe-Claire is usually hidden. Nonetheless, if anyone visits downtown Mon-

treau or rides the Metro, it is impossible to ignore the increasing number of vulnerable people who are huddled in alcoves or sleeping in public spaces. A natural human reflex is to respond with fear or judgment, but this response is almost always inappropriate. However, we should be asking ourselves some very pointed questions. We live in a country that has plenty of food and abundant resources. How can we make sense of the fact that a growing number of people are not able to enjoy fundamental things like groceries or affordable housing?

The easiest way to frame this problem is to reflect on how we deal with the loss of belongings in the face of natural disasters. When a community experiences destructive wildfires or sudden floods, there are often hundreds of destroyed homes and displaced people. If an unthinkable catastrophe struck or a major fire burned through a residential neighbourhood like Cedar Park, the residents would not need to sleep at the Pointe-Claire Plaza or camp in tents in Terra Cotta Park. Of course not. We have systems and resources that get marshalled to respond to those affected. It would take a little while for everyone to get back to a level of residential stability, but everyone would benefit from a variety of sources of assistance in the process.

We are totally comfortable with the idea that effort and action are required to end the experience of homelessness if it is caused by a natural disaster. Why are we less comfortable with the idea of ending the experience of homelessness, which is a product of poverty and social disconnection? There might be three main reasons:

1. The challenge has been defined improperly.

There is a general assumption that the challenges associated with poverty are intractable. Some folks still blame the victims. The more popular trope is to point to drugs, alcohol, or mental disorders and suggest that “those people” need to be compelled to undergo some sort of treatment. Interestingly, the majority of people who struggle with mental health and/or addiction are not homeless. Some of them might be our next-door neighbours. The number one reason why people are unhoused is the inability to afford housing combined with social isolation—meaning that they don’t have a network of close friends or family. The number one reason why people seek out groceries at a food bank is because their revenue is barely able to cover the cost of essential expenses like rent and transportation, and the purchase of food is the only significant elastic item in their monthly budget.

2. The reflex of decision-makers has been to fund patches.

Over a number of years, most of the funding provided by the government has targeted symptoms rather than the cause. It has been reactive and short-term. Money is typically provided for temporary shelters, warming centres in the winter, and beefed-up security efforts in public areas of greatest concern. This sort of funding does little more than make a feeble attempt at managing the problem rather than solving the problem. It has encouraged well-meaning members of the public to try to compensate for the obvious funding gaps by exercising noble charitable reflexes that are insufficient. This is particularly obvious in the domain of food insecurity, where there is almost zero government funding.

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Homelessness (cont.)

3. The majority of our community service organizations are ill-equipped to lead the effort to respond to this challenge.

The care of many of our vulnerable citizens has been assumed by underfunded community organizations. We have come to expect local community-based non-profits to carry the load. Let's be clear, civil society does have a very important role to play—they are on the front line and can respond to needs when they are resourced properly. However, at the moment, more than 92% of the charitable community organizations in Canada have annual revenues of less than three million dollars. Much of the funding they obtain is non-recurring. This does not allow them to build institutional capacity and therefore their activities are limited to anemic efforts anchored to deficient service models. They are frequently stuck in the middle of the problem, unable to actually resolve the problem. They do not lack passion and determination—but passion and determination alone cannot resolve complex social problems.

How can members of the public help? There is a longer answer... but the short and simple answer is that we must collectively appeal to all levels of government to collaborate and focus on funding real solutions.

Poverty and homelessness are a consequence of policy failure—it is not due to some sort of moral failure on the part of the people who find themselves in precarious situations. Public policy can only advance when propelled by public opinion, and it is important that we compel our decision-makers to act. The good news? We know exactly what needs to be done. It will require political courage. Reducing poverty is an economic driver. When people are housed and able to afford the basics of life they cease being a cost to the system and begin making a significant contribution to society.



Sam Watts is the CEO of Welcome Hall Mission, a community organization founded in 1892 that is focused on helping people achieve residential stability. He is the author of Good Work–Done Better. He is also an appointed member of the National Housing Council of Canada and serves on a number of boards, including the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness and L'Arche Canada. He lives in Beaconsfield, within walking distance of Pointe-Claire Village.



Charity doesn't stop when the holidays end

Stepping Up/Un Pas Vers l'Avant needs your help

Poverty and homelessness are year-round
To show you care, please step up and help

To make a difference, please donate to these
great organizations in our backyard



www.ricochetwestisland.com



West Island
Mission
de l'Ouest de l'Île
www.wimmoi.org

Everyone Has a Role to Play

by Barry Christensen

We elect our municipal government every four years, but very few of us are clear on their roles. There are two documents used to determine what the duties are of councillors and mayors in Quebec. The [*Guide d'Accueil et de référence pour les élues et les élus municipaux*](#), published by the ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation (MAHM), is an introduction to the mandate of elected officials, while the *Le manuel de l'élue(e) municipal(e)* (2021, 8th edition, by Joël Mercier) describes itself as a comprehensive work that addresses all the functions, obligations, responsibilities, and legal powers held by city council members.

Councillors, who are the most accessible elected officials, [have a number of responsibilities to their constituents and to the city](#). Councillors must engage with their constituents and help them with their concerns by bringing them to the city manager or by presenting them to the municipal council during caucus meetings.

Outside of council meetings and barring exceptional circumstances, councillors have no general powers. Councillors cannot make any decisions on behalf of the municipality, give work instructions to employees, or carry out administrative tasks.

In addition to attending council and caucus meetings, councillors also put their focus on specific issues that are meaningful to their residents. Councillors may be appointed to committees by a council resolution and may choose to perform in-depth studies to help the council in its decision-making.

A councillor designated by the city council may be chosen to act as deputy mayor in the absence of the mayor or during a vacancy in this position.

Councillors have only one legal power; they are required to vote on every proposal debated at council meetings unless they are in a conflict of interest situation.

The role of the mayor is different, having powers of supervision, investigation, and control to ensure the proper functioning of the municipality. Some of the duties and responsibilities are quite straightforward, but the following should be noted:

- A mayor participates in decision-making with council—but for the mayor, voting is *not* an obligation unless prescribed by law.
- A mayor can exercise the right of veto over a decision of the council by refusing to approve it. However, this veto can be reversed if the majority of council members required by law adopt the same decision again.



Photo: Deborah Ancel

The following 26 items encompass the *legal powers* of the mayor of Pointe-Claire, out of the 30 laid out by the *Le manuel de l'élue(e) municipale*:

- The power to monitor, investigate, and control all departments and civil servants, except the Auditor General.
- The power to ensure the municipality's revenues are collected and spent in accordance with the law.
- The power to ensure that the provisions of the law, the by-laws, and ordinances of council are faithfully and impartially carried out.
- The power to submit to council any project that is considered necessary and useful, and to communicate to council any information and suggestions relating to the improvement of finances, police, health, safety, cleanliness, well-being, and progress of the municipality.
- The right to suspend at any time a municipal official or employee, with the exception of the Auditor General.

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Role to Play (cont.)

- The power to approve by-laws, resolutions, obligations, and contracts within 96 hours following their adoption or approval.
- The power to be an ex officio member of, and vote on, all council committees.
- The power to be ex officio Chairperson of the Executive Committee.
- The power to sign checks and negotiable instruments, other than bonds issued by the municipality.
- The power to answer questions posed by persons present at council question period.
- The power to call a special council meeting.
- The power to preside over council meetings.
- The power to maintain order and decorum during council meetings.
- The power to sign the book in which the minutes of the votes and deliberations of council are transcribed.
- The power to sign the original copy of by-laws to ensure their authenticity.
- The power to sign the book containing municipal regulations.
- The power to report at a regular meeting of the June council meeting on the highlights of the financial report.
- The power to sign the warrant for the seizure and sale of property for non-payment of taxes.
- The power to sign bonds issued by the municipality.
- The power to decree, in the case of *force majeure* of a nature that endangers the health and safety of the population, any expense deemed necessary to remedy the situation.
- The power to administer oaths in the same way as a Commissioner of Oaths.
- The power to take any oath required by the City and Towns Act.
- The mayor may take the oath required under a provision of the act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities.
- The mayor may solemnize marriages under Article 366 of the Civil Code of Quebec.
- The mayor, or, if absent, the deputy mayor or any two members of council, may, under section 33 of the Fire Safety Act, request the intervention of another municipality's fire department.
- The mayor has the power to declare a state of emergency for a maximum period of 48 hours if council cannot meet to declare said state of emergency.



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SAVE FAIRVIEW FOREST

AGM - AGA

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Opinion: Opportunity Knocks

By Vito Pelosi

On February 9, 2025, Pointe-Claire resident Linda De Witt made a comment about “Developers and the city councillors who are in their thrall” in a post on the Pointe-Claire News and Discussion Facebook group. That comment compelled me to write this opinion piece.

I am increasingly concerned about individuals making unsubstantiated, very serious accusations and potentially defaming others. This is unacceptable and must stop immediately.

Ms. De Witt appears to have been inspired in her remarks by [Mayor Thomas’ Facebook post](#), where he presented a chart of housing completions from 2017-2024 and units under construction in the demerged suburbs of Montreal using data from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), a chart that really doesn’t mean much without context.

The chart is just a bunch of figures put together to try to appease a vocal minority who want to stop any and all development. So, Pointe-Claire built more—so what? The reason we have many more units built is because we have land available for development. Beaconsfield, Dorval, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, and other municipalities would be thrilled to have the opportunities we have in Pointe-Claire.

In his post, Mayor Thomas conveniently does not mention anything about the 950 housing units (condos and rentals), 111 townhouses, and 47 lots for single-family homes that will be built by [Prevel and TGTA](#) in Kirkland’s Lacey Green sector. There is also no mention of the Kirkland Centre’s expansion, the [RioCan and Broccolini multiphase project](#) comprising 240,000 square feet of office space and 135,000 square feet of commercial space, to include over 1000 residential units, with no single-family homes. Nor did he choose to acknowledge the [Dorval development](#) with six residential towers and over 1000 units that will be delivered in the next two years.

Ms. De Witt also wrote a letter in *The Suburban* (“Pointe-Claire needs sustainable development,” Dec. 4, 2024) stating that “Brent Cowan is one of the city councillors who seem to be in the thrall of developers, and have little understanding that the increased revenues brought by large residential developments are more

than offset by the increased costs incurred by the city.” She goes on to say that “Brent Cowan and his like-minded city councillors have the ear of developers, not the majority of Pointe-Claire citizens.”

I beg to differ.

Generally, large residential developments are, more often not than not, offset by the increased costs incurred by a city, as high-density developments can actually generate more revenue for the

municipality than the costs associated with servicing them, particularly when compared to low-density suburban sprawl, meaning the city can often net a positive financial benefit from large residential projects due to increased property taxes and development charges.

Pointe-Claire has a golden opportunity to make sure our city is ready to move forward for the next couple of generations. I fail to understand why development is such a dirty word and why developers are so vilified. Developers have had a hand in building communities—vibrant, dynamic, sustainable communities—as did Louis B. Magil in the 50s, 60s, and 70s in Pointe-Claire.

Real estate developers—visionaries who take ALL the risk. Developers work in one of the most challenging areas of the real estate field—land development. They create and build residential communities, industrial complexes, shopping malls, and other commercial structures. They must navigate the complexities of securing financing, manage the complex web of stakeholders involved in a project, handle the nightmarish bureaucratic regulations, deal with potential market fluctuations, and ensure profitability while balancing the needs of investors, contractors, and community members. Essentially, they manage the high level of risk and responsibilities associated with development projects where significant financial investments are at stake.



Photo: Deborah Ancel

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Opportunity Knocks (cont.)

Halting all development, as proposed by Mayor Thomas and his supporters, lacks foresight and does not contribute to the advancement of our city or the enhancement of services for its dynamic and evolving community. Consider where we would be if Olive Urquhart had not proceeded with industrial development during her tenure as mayor, despite significant opposition at that time. Envision Pointe-Claire without the Fairview Shopping Centre. There was substantial resistance to constructing such a large, enclosed shopping centre, which was a novel concept at the time. Many believed it would not succeed.



Photo: Deborah Ancel

There have been comments that our infrastructure may not support more development. It should be understood that new developments will not be approved if the infrastructure cannot handle them. As one Facebook contributor stated, a potential 4000 units "at \$3000 (low estimate) per unit in taxes that's \$12,000,000 in additional revenue to benefit all residents." This revenue could potentially be used for infrastructure investment, if necessary. However, infrastructure investments are typically amortized and charged back to the new developments, so there would be no cost to the city.

In her Facebook post, Ms. De Witt also asserts that "The City of Pointe-Claire has no comprehensive study of the state and capabilities of our existing infrastructures [...] the City actually does not know whether our existing infrastructures will be adequate for residential developments already under construction or recently built." Ongoing dialogue with developers can help create balanced solutions. Effective city management involves compromise and collaboration to ensure progress and address concerns.

While Mayor Thomas presented his concerns about housing affordability in his Facebook post, I acknowledge that it is a complex issue that requires constructive discussions.

In Quebec, the "soft rent control" system, while not as stringent as traditional rent control, can deter new housing development by limiting the potential profit for landlords on new rental units. And yes, profit... it is reasonable to expect a return on one's investment. This, combined with regulations on rent increases for older buildings, makes it less financially attractive for developers to construct new rental properties. Essentially, landlords may see less incentive to build new units if they cannot charge market rates.

As for the vacancy rates, data shows that the vacancy rate was 0.9% in Pointe-Claire for 2024 and increased to 6.3% in Q4 2024 for the Greater Montreal Area (CMHC data). A vacancy rate between 5-10% is considered healthy, indicating a balance between supply and demand. I support the construction of more rental units, senior living units (as proposed by Cadillac Fairview in Mu1), and other developments. Additionally, with the REM, Pointe-Claire has a legal obligation to increase density as per the Montreal Metropolitan Community's (CMM) Plan métropolitain d'aménagement et de développement (PMAD) policy for land use, transportation, and the environment.

This leads me to another point concerning the environment. Our urban sprawl experiment, with its low-density development, increases car usage and land consumption, negatively impacting the environment. In contrast, densification reduces transportation emissions and minimizes environmental footprint by concentrating development.

We need constructive discussions, with all stakeholders, including developers, to solve our great city's issues and eliminate the "Not in my backyard" NIMBY attitude which is prevalent in our society today. Everyone can have opinions, but we must focus on facts, not misrepresent them or spread misinformation.

Vito Pelosi holds a professional designation of Certified Property Manager (CPM) and has worked in property management for 30 years. Vito has lived, coached, and volunteered in Pointe-Claire since 1981. He is a member and past president of the Pointe-Claire Oldtimers Hockey Club (PCOT), as well as a member of its donation committee.

Opinion: Saving Fairview Forest—A Dream Within Reach

By Geneviève Lussier and Ralph Stoczek

In the last issue of The Pointe-Claire Record, David Johnston wrote a piece under the headline “[Just the Facts: An Update on Mu1 & Mu2](#).” In our view, it was not just facts and favoured the destruction of the invaluable Fairview Forest (Mu2). We are pleased and grateful to offer readers a different vision, some missing facts, and real policy options.

Imagine a forest. Red-shouldered hawks fly in and out, nest in the treetops above wetlands, soar over the nearby streets and homes, and mind their young that are learning to fly. Fox kits play with their siblings within the safety of their dens and below the forest canopy of 100-year-old trees. Rare flora grows like nowhere else in the area. Imagine a stand of hemlocks that houses owls and woodpeckers. Imagine a meadow once used by the municipality, then left fallow for decades, now a precious refuge for the Dekay's Brownsnake, officially recognized by Quebec as “threatened.” Think of rare migratory birds resting and feeding in the fields and trees. This is Fairview Forest.



A red trillium grows in Fairview Forest.
Photo: Geneviève Lussier

Now, imagine being allowed to experience this magic and it being preserved for all future generations to come. Even better, imagine this treasure being within a short walking distance of many thousands of both new and existing residents right here in Pointe-Claire. This is the urban plan people want and asked for in public consultations. These very residents would otherwise be trapped in a giant, concrete heat island.

As citizens committed to protecting Fairview Forest (FF), we know what a miracle it is that this natural space still exists. We also know how extraordinary and unique it is, a fact that numerous experts and biologists have confirmed. We cannot speak for Cadillac

Fairview (CF) as Mr. Johnston has, but the last we heard, at last December's consultation for the PMAD (Plan Métropolitain d'Aménagement et de Développement), CF still wants to raze the majority of the forest to build condo towers, offices, and commercial space. They have owned this natural space since 2013, but since then much has changed socially, environmentally, and policy-wise. Laws and urban planners now say we should be building where concrete already exists, like on Mu1, the parking lot of Fairview Shopping Centre, and saving the little bit of natural greenspace that still survives, such as Fairview Forest. This is good planning from a health, environment, and livability perspective.

In our own presentation at the PMAD consultation, we emphasized the historical presence of Fairview Forest in numerous important ecological maps, most notably in the [Atlas des bois de Montréal](#), published in 2002 by what was once the Communauté Urbaine de Montréal and Environnement Québec. In this document, FF appears in no fewer than four important maps: “Peuplements rares,” “Peuplements matures et centenaires,” “Peuplements qui contient des espèces floristiques et / ou fauniques rares,” and “Peuplements d'intérêt écologique.” CF is also well aware of the fact that it was recommended by the CMM that [greenspaces be excluded from TOD \(Transit-Oriented Development\) zones](#). This was noted by the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs, whose report to CF had been obtained by our group through an access to information request years ago.

In his piece, Mr. Johnston mentions that we shouldn't be concerned about the loss of Dekay's Brownsnakes in FF because some exist in other places, namely Ontario, Vermont, and New York. We must first correct Mr. Johnston's statement that the snakes are only “at risk” and listed as “susceptible to being designated as vulnerable

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Saving Fairview Forest (cont.)

or threatened.” [The status was, in fact, changed to “threatened” a few years ago](#), as mentioned earlier. Furthermore, the situation surrounding the importance of the Brownsnake requires a little biodiversity lesson. The Brownsnake only exists in Quebec in the Montreal metropolitan area, a sector that has been under extreme pressure from development. Who knows how many habitats have been lost up to now? Finally, ecosystems exist as a whole. No single entity exists separate from another; rather, they exist symbiotically. The Brownsnake population in FF is [the most important of all the sites studied](#) prior to the building of the REM. Its population is well-established and has an important role to play in mitigating the existence of invasive snail species (snails being their favourite meal) and in being a food source for other creatures of the forest. Therefore, the snake population that exists within FF is no less important than any other site and is essential, in and of itself. To say that fauna is disposable in one location because there are some thousands of kilometres away is a very dangerous argument with regard to a species’ survival.

Recently, provincial and regional laws and policies were modified specifically to make the protection of natural areas easier for municipalities. The government of Quebec and the Communauté Métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM) have both made changes to existing by-laws and laws, giving Pointe-Claire the power to save Fairview Forest. Quebec passed Bill 39, facilitating cities in their acquisition of ecologically important areas. The [CMM’s revised Metropolitan Land Use and Development Plan](#) prioritizes the preservation of specific natural spaces, including FF. They’ve made it possible to acquire ecologically valuable land at little cost and have even frozen development on FF specifically so that Pointe-Claire’s administration can do the right thing. For almost four years, there had been little action on the part of our elected officials to make use of the tools available to them. City councillors have argued, fought, and dragged their feet. Finally, we see some movement in the direction citizens have overwhelmingly asked for. We expect our administration to continue to move forward and use the laws and opportunities at hand. Imagine the achievement!

In the near future, instead of a sea of concrete, we would prefer to imagine nature guides helping residents from all over the West Island discover the 35 rare and endangered species documented in Fairview Forest. This space can become part of our natural heritage. We can and must be environmentally responsible. We can give our citizens nature nestled right in their community. It’s a no-brainer. Councillors should make a commitment that is not “build, baby, build,” acting against important environmental realities, or stalling, nor promoting fear with overexaggerated costs. The tools exist to make this happen. Studies can be done, civic and natural values given substantiation, planning enacted, by-laws passed, and on and on. We don’t need more “Well, maybe... if this...,” only to regret this inaction later. Citizens need to know by way of the most clear, indefatigable commitment where our elected officials stand.



Map of wetlands provided courtesy of Save Fairview Forest.

We appreciate that some councillors have reached out and are receptive, and we look forward to working with them to create a “central” natural space for Pointe-Claire’s future downtown. The administration as a whole can achieve this accomplishment of a lifetime. They need only the will to act together to protect Fairview Forest in perpetuity.

Geneviève Lussier and Ralph Stocck are board members of Save Fairview Forest. Their annual general meeting will be held on March 26, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary of Cedar Park United Church. To reserve your spot, please register by clicking [here](#). They can be reached via their website at <https://sauvonslaforetfairview.org/> and by email at info@sauvonslaforetfairview.org.

Run With Me - Défi Pointe-Claire

By Jessica Coll

Looking for a new challenge to push your limits and have fun at the same time? Sign up now for the Défi Pointe-Claire on June 15th!

In partnership with the City of Pointe-Claire, the [Pointe-Claire Canoe Kayak Club](#) is organizing the "[Défi Pointe-Claire: Run With Me](#)" race to promote fitness and community spirit through a family-friendly annual running event. The event includes different running distances to accommodate various age groups and fitness levels.

Whether jogging for fun or running to beat a personal record, participants can take on distances of 1, 2, 5, 10, or 15 km. The objective for the 2025 edition is to host over 1,000 runners from all over Quebec!

The race will be held on June 15, 2025, beginning at Valois Park. Start times depend on the length of the race, so



be sure to check out defipointeclaire.com for details. Participants who register before April 1st receive an exclusive race t-shirt!

If you would like to volunteer for the Défi Pointe-Claire - Run With Me, please fill in this [form](#) or visit our website at defipointeclaire.com to learn more.

Men's Shed Celebrates its 1st Anniversary by Edward Cho

The West Island Men's Shed held its 1st anniversary party at the Royal Canadian Legion in Pointe-Claire on Tuesday, February 18th, 2025. Close to 30 guests attended the potluck dinner, with there being a lot of delicious food and good conversation.



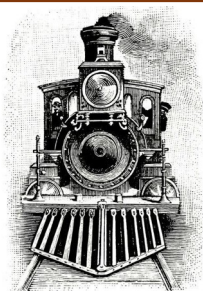
Photo: Edward Cho



Photo: Edward Cho



Photo: Martin van Kuilenburg



The Polling Station

This month, we want to hear your opinion:

Would you like to see a multi-service drop-in centre, providing services for people in need, built in Pointe-Claire?

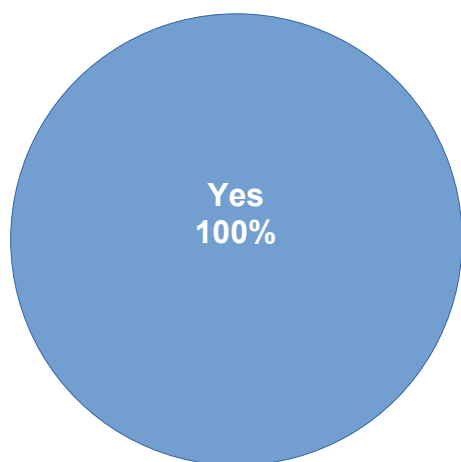


The Polling Station is meant for entertainment and informational purposes only and is not to be considered scientific in any way. The Pointe-Claire Record wants to elicit discourse from the citizens of Pointe-Claire and offer up a safe space to discuss comments and ideas to encourage communication between all residents of Pointe-Claire as well as the West Island.

Last month's Polling Station:

We wanted to know: Do you vote in municipal elections?

This seems pretty clear!



■ Yes

■ No

Here are your comments:

"Do not sleepwalk through the next municipal election in November. Ask questions, really inform yourselves, and don't be swayed by empty promises. Vote for the good of Pointe-Claire. Be proactive, get out and vote"

"It is the best way to show that you love your municipality and neighbours."

"Do bears s#it in the woods?"

"It's a privilege to live in a democracy where you can vote."

"So important, très important."

"My civic duty! And, has always been an easy process so no excuses...."

"To protect the city from overdevelopment and more highrises."

L'ASSOCIATION DES CITOYENS DE POINTE-CLAIRE
CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION



Plus Forts Ensemble
Stronger Together



L'ACPC

Réunir les gens, les informations et les idées pour bâtir une communauté plus forte

[facebook.com/acpc.pcca](https://www.facebook.com/acpc.pcca)
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The PCCA

Connecting people, information and ideas to build a stronger community

www.pointeclaire.info
acpc.pcca@gmail.com



The Kitchen: John's Shrimp and Scallop Romanoff With Seppia Pasta

By John De Luca

INGREDIENTS (serves 2)

6 sea scallops
4 large shrimp, peeled
1 396ml can oven-fired tomatoes or diced tomatoes
½ cup shallots, chopped
2 cloves (or more) garlic, roughly chopped
¼ cup 35% cream (for the classic Romanov style, optional)
¼ cup vodka
1-2 tbsp unsalted butter
1 tbsp olive oil
¼ -½ tsp harissa paste (or ¼ tsp peperoncino peppers)
¼ cup snipped chives + some for garnish
Salt & pepper
250g Tagliatelle “Nero di Seppia” (squid ink noodles) or your favourite pasta. Seppia can be purchased at Intermarché Palumbo.
Reserve 1 cup of pasta water



Photo: John De Luca

METHOD

- Put pasta in boiling water. Reserve 1 cup pasta water when pasta is near *al dente*
- Heat olive oil and harissa in saucepan over medium heat
- Add butter and sauté shallots until tender
- Add garlic and stir for 1 minute
- Add tomatoes — stir to mix
- Add vodka
- If adding cream, stir. Allow sauce to reduce and thicken slightly.
- Add salt and pepper to taste
- Add snipped chives and stir
- Drain pasta, add to the pan, and use up to ½ cup pasta water to thin, if necessary. If sauce is too thick, add additional pasta cooking water.
- Toss to coat with sauce

When sauce is complete and pasta nearly cooked, heat frying pan to hot with a thin film of olive oil and sear the scallops 2 minutes per side. Place scallops on a pre-heated plate. Lower heat, add a bit of minced garlic, and sauté shrimp until pink. Place shrimp on a warm plate. Place pasta with sauce in prewarmed bowls and top with the scallops and shrimp.

Around Town

March 16: [St. Patrick's After Parade Party](#)
March 16: [Summer Camp Fair 2025](#)
March 16: [He Said/She Said – A St. Paddy's Singalong](#)
March 16: [Mariner's Curse](#)
March 17: [Ben Griffin](#)
March 17: [Good Time Charlie](#)
March 17: [Paul Kininmonth](#)
March 19: [Community Connections](#)
March 20: [Mexico et ses musées](#)
March 20: [Art and Wine Evening](#)
March 21-23: [NoReset – Video Games Festival](#)
March 21: [Jeff Smallwood](#)
March 21: [Pat Lesyk & Ed Stevens](#)
March 22: [Terra Cotta Park – Discovery Class](#)
March 22: [Marching into Spring: Pop-Up Market](#)
March 22: [A Musical Evening – Vienna Meets Spain](#)
March 22: [Apocalyptic](#)
March 25: [The Jazz Knights](#)
March 22: [Classiques de l'Écran](#)
March 22: [Attraction & Overdose](#)
March 26: [Save Fairview Forest AGM](#)
March 26: [Laugh for a Cause](#)
March 27: [The Baffinators](#)
March 28: [Jando](#)
March 29: [Rachmaninoff, Descarries, Scriabin – Préludes et Fantaisies](#)
March 29: [Trip the Light](#)
March 29: [Tatum Quinn](#)
March 30: [Southern Cruisers Riding Club \(SCRC\)](#)
April 4: [Laura Anglade & Michael Bruzzese](#)
April 5: [Dimo James](#)
April 5: [STRUM](#)
April 5: [The Killing Moon](#)
April 6: [Small World Project: Macroscopic](#)
April 11: [L'Orchestre Métropolitain: Baroque Journey](#)
April 13: [Pile Up \(for children\)](#)
April 16: [Artists Talk: Daniel Barrow, Glenn Gear & Paige Gratland](#)